



Washington D.C. 20505

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

9 November 1983

Problems and Prospects of a New Succession [redacted]

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Summary

Soviet party leader Yuriy Andropov's absence from this year's anniversary ceremonies in Moscow--no General Secretary has missed them in 30 years or more--is almost certainly due to a worsening of his physical health. His frail health in fact has been evident from the outset of his tenure, and given rise to speculation that the regime could face a new succession at any time. [redacted]

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There are signs, moreover, that the bureaucracy has been concerned about Andropov's physical staying power, even while the new leader's hold on power is growing and his political position is solid. [redacted]

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This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] the Domestic Issues Branch, Policy Analysis Division, Office of Soviet Analysis. Comments and queries may be addressed to the Chief, Policy Analysis Division, [redacted]

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